

Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

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P 111510Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9737

UNCLAS MOSCOW 8955

FOR A/ART

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC UR

SUBJ: SPASO HOUSE ART COLLECTION

1. IN CONNECTION WITH LIGHTING PROBLEMS SUBJECT EXHIBIT, EMBASSY WITH BLESSING MINCULT AND RECOMMENDATION PUSHKIN GALLERY CONSULTED ALL UNION CENTRAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH LABORATORY FOR CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF MUSEUM ART OBJECTS, WHICH ORGANIZATION PROMPTLY SENT IMPRESSIVE DELEGATION OF EXPERTS TO SPASO AND PRODUCED REPORT SUMMARIZED BELOW. EMBASSY HOPES TO EFFECT SOME OF SPOTLIGHTING RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE EXHIBIT OPENING JUNE 19, BUT ALL AGREE THAT REMOVAL OF GLASS WOULD BE SINGLE MOST EFFECTIVE STEP TO ENHANCING IMPACT OF EXHIBIT. EMBASSY WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE DEPT. APPROACHING METROPOLITAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO SEE WHETHER MUSEUM COULD APPROVE REMOVAL GLASS (BY SAME EXPERTS) FROM SOME OR ALL OF PAINTINGS.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. RAISE LEVEL OF PICTURES 20 TO 30 CMS.

B. INCREASE SIZE OF RADIATOR COVERS WHERE THEY OCCUR NEAR PAINTINGS.

C. INSTALL SPOTLIGHTS IN TUBES ON CORNICES IN CENTRAL HALL AND DINING ROOM.

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D. TO PRECLUDE REFLECTION AND HIGH LIGHTING GLASS

SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM PAINTINGS (SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION WITH METROPOLITAN MUSEUM) SINCE THERE IS NO DANGER OF SILLING OR ABRUPT CHANGES OF TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY.

E. INSTALL MEASURING UNITS TO CONTROL TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.

F. PROVIDE INSPECTION (BY THE COMPETENT SECTION OF THE ORGANIZATION) OF CONDITION OF PAINTINGS EVERY SIX MONTHS.STOESSEL

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